

NEWS

Date: 12/13/2005

Contact: Bob Jue, Public Health Specialist Senior
(208) 327-8523

RECALLED LUNCH PRODUCT FOUND IN BOISE MARKETS

A Central District Health Department spot check of local supermarkets has found that a few are still carrying a recalled lunch product manufactured by Armour Foods. On December 1st ConAgra Foods, the parent company of Armour, voluntarily recalled approximately 9,550 pounds of various bologna, ham and turkey lunch meal products that may be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*. Some of the Lunch Makers® Cracker Crunchers meals were distributed to Idaho, and while most have been taken off the shelf some have not.

The local supermarkets with product still on the shelves were asked to contact their corporate offices for removal of the product from their stores. There have been no reported cases of *Listeria monocytogenes* in Idaho.

Consumption of food contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes* can cause listeriosis, an uncommon but potentially fatal disease. Healthy people rarely contract listeriosis. However, listeriosis can cause high fever, severe headache, neck stiffness and nausea. Listeriosis can also cause miscarriages and stillbirths, as well as serious and sometimes fatal infections in those with weakened immune systems, such as infants, the elderly and persons with HIV infection or undergoing chemotherapy.

Media with questions about the recall should contact company Public Affairs Director, Tania Graves at (402) 595-6258. Consumers with questions about the recall should call the Lunch Makers consumer information line at (800) 414-7500. The product was returnable with or without receipt to the place of purchase for a refund.

To view the original recall notice go to the United States Department of Agriculture's Food Safety Inspection Service website:

http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Recall_052_2005_Expanded/index.asp

#####